

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 PC-01 NRC-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 OES-09 ACDA-12
HA-05 IO-13 EUR-12 AF-10 /158 W
-----106848 131135Z /14

R 122125Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8981
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BOBOTA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, BR
SUBJECT: FIGUEIREDO'S FOREIGN POLICY OBSERVATIONS

1. SUMMARY: ARENA PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JOAO BAPTISTA FIGUEIREDO OFFERED HIS MOST COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC STATEMENT TO DATE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS DURING REMARKS LAST WEEK TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN RIO. FIGUEIREDO HAD PREVIOUSLY LIMITED HIMSELF TO STATING HIS INTENTION TO PURSUE A FOREIGN POLICY VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GEISEL ADMINISTRATION AND, IN FACT, THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURES FROM THE GEISEL LINE IN FIGUEIREDO'S RECENT OBSERVATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE CORRESPONDENTS WERE TOLD THAT THE CANDIDATE'S STATEMENTS SHOULD BE SEEN AS A PRODUCT OF HIS OWN THINKING AND THAT OF HIS TEAM. IT IS POSSIBLE, THEREFORE, TO PERCEIVE THE OUTLINES OF A FIGUEIREDO FOREIGN POLICY

IN THESE REMARKS. END SUMMARY

2. IN A PREPARED STATEMENT TO THE CORRESPONDENTS, FIGUEIREDO CITED THREE BASIC THEMES IN TODAY'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WHICH, HE SAID, WOULD HELP SHAPE BRAZIL'S POLICY:

- (EAST-WEST TENSIONS): "I SEE THE PERSISTENCE OF RIVALRY AND EVEN CONFRONTATION DESPITE THE FACT THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE NATIONS OF EAST AND WEST HAVE BEEN UPGRADED."
- (NUCLEAR POWER): "THE ATOM, WHICH SHOULD BE UTILIZED EXCLUSIVELY TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT, PROGRESS, AND PEACE AMONG NATIONS, CONTINUES TO BE THE BACKBONE OF MILITARY COMPETITION."
- (RICH AND POOR NATIONS): "THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE RICH NATIONS OF THE NORTH AND THE POOR NATIONS OF THE SOUTH IS PRACTICALLY PARALYZED. MANY PROMISES (HAVE BEEN) MADE, FEW FULFILLED."

3. FIGUEIREDO ALSO MENTIONED "IN THE INTERNAL SPHERE" THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ABOUT WHICH HE SAID: "WE WANT THE INDIVIDUAL TO BE RESPECTED IN HIS ENTIRETY (AND) THE REALIZATION OF THE WISHES OF EVERYONE TO BE HARMONIZED WITH THE GENERAL INTERESTS OF SOCIETY. OUR KEYNOTE IS DEMOCRACY AND LIBERTY WITH RESPONSIBILITY."

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4. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, FIGUEIREDO SAID, HE EXPECTED BRAZIL'S FOREIGN POLICY TO BE GUIDED BY THREE BASIC PRINCIPLES, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:
- UNIVERSALISM: "BRAZIL'S DESTINY IS TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE." THE COUNTRY'S SIZE, LARGE AND DIVERSE POPULATION, AND EXTENSIVE FRONTIERS, SAID FIGUEIREDO, "CAUSE US TO LIFT OUR EYES BEYOND THE HORIZON AND CONCERN OURSELVES WITH THE FATE OF OTHER PEOPLES."
 - MUTUAL RESPECT: "BRAZIL WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT ITS FOREIGN POLICY CALMLY AND WITHOUT CONFRONTATION. OUR TRADITION IS ONE OF PROTECTING NATIONAL INTERESTS (WHILE) SEEKING TO RESOLVE INTERNATIONAL ISSUES BY MEANS OF NEGOTIATION BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL RESPECT."
 - HARMONIOUS COEXISTENCE: "OUR GREATEST MIRACLE IS THE FRATERNAL COEXISTENCE OF BRAZILIANS OF ALL ORIGINS SCATTERED FROM NORTH TO SOUTH." BRAZILIANS ARE A UNITED PEOPLE, FIGUEIREDO SAID, COOPERATING WITH EACH OTHER AND FREE OF ANY DISCRIMINATION. "THIS CAPACITY

FOR DEALING WITH ALL INTERLOCUTORS OF GOOD FAITH ALSO

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R 122125Z SEP 78
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CHARACTERIZES OUR POSITION TOWARD THE REST OF
THE WORLDS."

5. IN THE QUESTION PERIOD THAT FOLLOWED, THE CANDIDATE
OFFERED THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON MAJOR TOPICS:
-- PRESIDENT CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY: "WE ARE
IN AGREEMENT WITH THE BASIS FOR THE POLICY AND WITH
ITS OBJECTIVES, BUT WE DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE, NOR DID
PRESIDENT GEISEL, THAT THE IMPETUS FOR THIS POLICY
CAN BE ALLOWED TO TRANSFORM IT INTO AN ATTEMPT AT
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INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ANY COUNTRY.
I HOPE THAT THE INITIAL MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF THE
POLICY OF PRESIDENT CARTER HAVE ALREADY BEEN OVERCOME
AND THAT WE (I.E., BRAZIL AND THE US) CAN NOW PROCEED
TOGETHER."

-- NUCLEAR POLICY (ASKED TO COMMENT ON AN ALLEGATION BY
A DUTCH JOURNALIST THAT BRAZIL WAS MAKING NUCLEAR
WEAPONS): "ANY ONE WHO KNOWS OUR BACKGROUND AND OUR
ATTITUDES KNOWS THAT BRAZIL HAS ABSOLUTELY NO INTEREST
IN USING THE ATOM FOR PURPOSES WHICH ARE NOT PEACEFUL."

-- RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES:
"BRAZIL HAS AN INTEREST IN MAINTAINING DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH ALL THE NATIONS IN THE WORLD AND PURSUES
THIS POLICY. THERE ARE ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES ON BOTH
SIDES...WE DO NOT MAKE EXCEPTIONS BASED ON WHETHER A
COUNTRY IS CAPITALIST OR SOCIALIST."

-- RELATIONS WITH CUBA: "CUBA IS ENTITLED TO A REGIME
DIFFERENT FROM OURS... AND ON THE DAY WHEN CUBA IS
CONVINCED THAT IT SHOULD NOT EXPORT (THIS REGIME) WE
WILL WELCOME RELATIONS WITH OPEN ARMS."

-- RELATIONS WITH AFRICA: "NATURALLY, BRAZIL HAS AN
INTEREST IN STRENGTHENING TIES WITH ALL THE NATIONS
OF THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY WITH THE NEW NATIONS OF
AFRICA. BRAZIL SHARES WITH AFRICA THE STRUGGLE FOR
DEVELOPMENT (AND THE DESIRE FOR A NEW) ORDER THAT
WILL PRODUCE IMPROVED COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES AND
ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY."

-- RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA: "THERE ARE DIFFERENCES
(BECAUSE) BOTH COUNTRIES INSIST, AS IS THEIR RIGHT, ON
DEFENDING TO THE MAXIMUM THEIR NATIONAL INTERESTS.
BUT I AM CERTAIN THAT THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA IS SO DEEP THAT THESE
DIFFERENCES WILL BE RESOLVED AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL...

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TO THE SATISFACTION OF BRAZILIANS AND ARGENTINES."

6. COMMENT: WHILE THERE WAS NOTHING STARTLING IN
FIGUEIREDO'S PRESENTATION, MEMBERS OF HIS CAMPAIGN TEAM
HAD FOR SOME WEEKS PRIVATELY CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT
THAT HE HAD SCHEDULED A FORMAL PRESS CONFERENCE WITH
RESIDENT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS SO THAT HIS VIEWS MIGHT
BECOME BETTER KNOWN ABROAD. OF SPECIAL INTEREST WERE HIS
COMMENTS -- BOTH EXPLICIT AND IMPLICIT -- ON RELATIONS WITH
THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA. HIS REMARKS CONCERNING THE
UNITED STATES ARE REFLECTIVE OF HIS ATTITUDE SINCE
PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT HERE LAST MARCH, I.E., "I
CAN DO BUSINESS WITH CARTER", HIS REMARK ON CUBA COULD

CONCEIVABLY PRESAGE AN EVENTUAL RELAXATION OF BRAZILIAN
POLICY TOWARDS CASTRO; OF INTEREST WAS THE ABSENCE OF
ANY REFERENCE TO CUBA'S ROLE IN AFRICA, WHICH GEISEL HAS
STRONGLY CRITICIZED.

7. PRIVATE COMMENTS TO EMBASSY OFFICERS BY RANKING
FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS TEND TO SUPPORT CURRENT PRESS
SPECULATION THAT FIGUEIREDO'S FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS WILL
PROBABLY BE REFLECTED IN FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA'S ADDRESS
OPENING THIS YEAR'S GENERAL DEBATE AT THE 33RD UNGA.
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